CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended)   In an appliance with a relatively stationary component and a rotatable vessel for holding a supply of material, a method comprising:

charging [said] the vessel with [said] the supply of material;

rotating [said] the vessel about an axis;

causing the vessel to engage the relatively stationary component by rapidly accelerating [said] the rotation of [said] the vessel;

determining an amount of energy with which [said] the vessel has engaged [said] the relatively stationary [part] component following a start of [said] the rapid acceleration;

comparing [said] the amount of energy with a predetermined value; and

sending a signal indicative of an unbalance condition if [said] the amount of energy exceeds [said] the predetermined value.

2. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein [said] the appliance is an automatic washing machine.

3. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 2, wherein [said] the washing machine is a vertical axis washer.

4. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 2, wherein [said] the washing machine is a horizontal axis washer.

5. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein [said] the appliance is a clothes treating appliance and [said] the material comprises a fabric load.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [said] the relatively stationary component comprises a cabinet of [said] the appliance.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein [said] the step of determining an amount of energy comprises rotating [said] the vessel with an electric motor, measuring a current supplied to [said] the motor, isolating a frequency of [said] the current relating to [said] the engagement of [said] the vessel with [said] the relatively stationary [part]

5   component and generating a curve representing [said] the frequency, comparing [said] the frequency with a curve representing a reference motor current, integrating areas above [said] the reference curve within [said] the engagement curve, and accumulating [said] the areas for a predetermined time.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein [said] the step of comparing comprises comparing [said] the accumulated area value with a predetermined threshold value.

9. (Currently Amended) An appliance comprising:

a vessel mounted for rotation about an axis, configured to receive a supply of material and arranged relative to a relatively stationary part of [said] the appliance whereby [said] the vessel [will] is configured to engage [said] the relatively stationary part in a severe unbalance

5   loading condition of [said] the material in [said] the vessel while [said] the vessel is rotating;

a control arranged and configured to rapidly accelerate a rotation of [said] the vessel causing the vessel to engage the stationary part, determine an amount of energy with which [said] the vessel has engaged [said] the relatively stationary part, compare [said] the amount of energy

with a predetermined value, and send a signal indicative of an unbalance condition if [said] the

10   amount of energy exceeds [said] the predetermined value.

10.   (Currently Amended)   An appliance according to claim 9, wherein [said] the

appliance is an automatic washing machine.

11.   (Currently Amended)   An appliance according to claim 10, wherein [said] the

washing machine is a vertical axis washer.

12.   (Currently Amended)   An appliance according to claim 10, wherein [said] the

washing machine is a horizontal axis washer.

13.   (Currently Amended)   An appliance according to claim 9, wherein [said] the

appliance is a clothes treating appliance and [said] the material comprises a fabric load.

14.   (Currently Amended)   An appliance according to claim 9, wherein [said] the

relatively stationary [component] part comprises a cabinet of [said] the appliance.

15.   (Currently Amended)   An appliance according to claim 9, including an electric

motor drivingly connected to [said] the rotatable vessel.

16.   (Currently Amended)   An appliance according to claim 15, wherein [said] the

electric motor comprises a controlled induction motor and an inverter is provided in the control

5   connected to the motor, [said] the control further comprising a current measuring device

connected to a dc bus of [said] the inverter.

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17.   (Currently Amended)   An appliance according to claim 16, wherein [said] the current measuring device provides an output signal representative of the current used by [said] the motor, [said] the control further including a digital filter connected to receive [said] the output signal, [said] the digital filter including a running average algorithm and providing an output

5   representative of an average current used by [said] the motor.

18.   An appliance according to claim 9, wherein [said] the signal comprises one of an audible and visible signal to a user.

19.   (Currently Amended)   An appliance according to claim 9, wherein [said] the signal comprises an electrical signal transmitted to a further part of [said] the control.

20.   (Currently Amended)   An appliance having a rotatable vessel configured to receive a supply of material mounted within a relatively stationary housing, [said] the vessel rotatable about an axis and [said] the vessel being mounted in a fashion such that it is movable relative to [said] the housing in a direction perpendicular to [said] the axis, comprising:

an electrical motor drivingly connected to [said] the rotatable vessel,

a control operatively connected to [said] the motor and configured to rapidly accelerate a rotation of [said] the vessel through operation of [said] the motor causing the vessel to engage the relatively stationary housing, determine an amount of energy with which [said] the vessel has engaged [said] the relatively stationary [part] housing as reflected by a characteristic of electrical current drawn by [said] the motor, compare [said] the amount of energy with a predetermined value, and send a signal indicative of an unbalance condition if [said] the amount of energy exceeds [said] the predetermined value.